

Fact Sheet:

Residential Services for Children And Youth

Description:

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) offers residential services for children in the following settings:

- Family foster care,
- Children's group care, and
- Licensed staffed residential homes.

Voluntary placement offers a variety of supports and services to a child residing in a licensed placement outside the family home. This occurs when a child's disabilities are so severe that the parents make a request for out-of-home placement, due solely to the child's disability ([RCW 74.13.350](#)). The child's disability may be so significant that it has an impact on the family's ability to manage their child in the family home. The parents retain custody of their child and work jointly with the licensed provider to provide a shared parenting model to best support their child.

Services and Supports:

The following are basic supports a child may receive while in residential services:

- Shared parenting services between residential care provider and parents;
- Medical coverage (medical, dental, etc.) under a medical coupon issued from the Foster Care Medical Unit (FCMU);
- Coordination with special education services in the child's local school district;
- Participation in supervised age-appropriate activities in the community;
- Safe, developmentally appropriate care to meet the child's individual needs;
- Oversight by a DDD social worker who has responsibility for visiting the child/youth at a minimum of every 90 days to ensure health, safety, and developmental needs are being met. The DDD social worker is also responsible for coordinating and monitoring the child's supports and services;
- An annual DDD Assessment which outlines the supports and services necessary to meet the health and safety needs of the child;

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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- Annual court oversight pursuant to [WAC 388-826-0050](#). The DDD social worker prepares documents for court and shares the documents at the court hearings in order to determine that the placement is in the best interest of the child ([RCW 13.34.030](#) and [RCW 13.34.270](#)).
- Coordination of services through the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) for children ages birth to three; and
- Coordination of services through the Medically Intensive Children's Program (MICP) pursuant to [Chapter 388-531 WAC](#).

Quality Assurance:

Children and youth receiving voluntary placement services live in Division of Licensed Resources (DLR) licensed foster homes, group care facilities, or staffed residential homes. Oversight includes:

- Each provider is paid through a contract specific to a foster care home, group care facility, or staffed residential home;
- Each child in foster care is assessed annually or as their needs change, using the Foster Care Assessment tool to determine payment for specialized support of the child;
- Each child in group care is assessed with a group care packet and placement is accessed through the regional placement desks;
- Formal proposal for care in a staffed residential home is completed using standardized forms and approved regionally and at division headquarters. Once the proposal is approved, it is sent to Contracts for execution;
- Each contract requires the provider to have an appropriate license, approved criminal history background check, and insurance. The renewal of the contract is linked to a current and valid license;
- Contracts are monitored as a part of a VPS Contract Compliance Plan, implemented regionally;
- Each child/youth in the identified licensed setting is visited by a DDD social worker every 90 days; the results are included in DDD Regional Quarterly Reviews and information on visits can be linked back to the DLR regional licensor if appropriate and necessary;
- A DDD Quality Assurance team member assigned to meet with voluntary placement supervisors on a quarterly basis to follow up on outstanding findings as a result of the most recent quality assurance review; and
- Court oversight, initially within 180 days of placement and then annually thereafter, to confirm that the out-of-home placement is, and continues to be, in the best interests of the child.

Rules and Regulations:

- Chapter [388-826 WAC](#) - Voluntary Placement Services
- Chapter [388-825 WAC](#) - DDD Service Rules
- Chapter [388-148 WAC](#) - DLR Licensing requirements

Visit the DDD Internet website at <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ddd/index.shtml>